



Red Tail Flyer

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Airmen officially welcome holiday season

Staff Sgt. Ryan Hansen

332nd AEW/PA

There were songs, cider, a tree lighting and gifts from Santa. It could have been Anytown, U.S.A., but this was Balad Air Base, Iraq.

Gathered outside the H-6 Recreation Center Dec. 4 below a 41-foot wooden Christmas tree were hundreds of Airmen to officially usher in the 2004 holiday season.

Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Gary Brooks, 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing chaplain, started off the event by welcoming everyone and talking about the significance of the event.

"Thanks for coming to the largest tree lighting in all of Iraq," Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Brooks said. "We're so happy we can all be here together to celebrate this moment. May this tree, with its 5,000 lights, be a sign of peace for this country."

The Reindeer Group followed the chaplain leading attendees in a variety of Christmas carols, taking everyone's mind away from the day-to-day business of Operation Iraqi Freedom for a few moments.

"This is a great break from the norm," said Staff Sgt. James Garrett, 332nd Expeditionary Maintenance Squadron. "It's really great they planned all of this for us."

Following the traditional songs of the season, 332nd AEW commander Blair E. Hansen took the podium to share a few words.

"We stand here tonight celebrating peace in a time of war," Colonel Hansen said. "But it's we who fight, who cherish peace more than anybody."

"Though it's true we're not where we want to be at this time with our families and loved ones," he continued. "Let us take this time we are together celebrating, to remember the cause that we are here fighting for today."



Air Force/Tech. Sgt. Robert Jensen

Santa Claus says hello to attendees at the Holiday Celebration Dec. 4 outside the H-6 Recreation Center. More photos can be viewed on page six.

As the commander stepped down, Airman 1st Class Peter Gentry, 332nd EXMS, stepped up and turned the switch, lighting up the tree and everyone's spirits in attendance.

"The tree is huge," said Capt. Amy Evans, 332nd Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron. "It's very nice that they took the time to put something together like this for us."

Grabbing the microphone and dressed up as one of Santa's little helpers was Col. Thomas Yanni, 332nd Expeditionary Mission Support Group commander. Colonel Yanni introduced the event's special guest.

"This is Santa's first return to Iraq in a

long time," Colonel Yanni said. "His arrival has made Mrs. Claus very nervous, but I can tell you that Santa has been practicing quite a bit for this."

A few yards away Santa Claus was indeed making his return to Iraq, by fast roping out of a HH-60G *Pave Hawk*.

After landing safely, Santa came over and wished everyone a merry Christmas and along with his little helpers, handed out gifts to all in attendance.

"That was awesome," said Tech. Sgt. Cynthia Pace, 332nd Aeromedical Contingency Staging Facility. "A helicopter is the only way Santa should come into the AOR."

Heroic Combat Airmen honored at ceremony

Commander awards four Purple Hearts

Staff Sgt. Ryan Hansen
332nd AEW/PA

The sky was clear and the air was cool Dec. 3 as members of the 732nd Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron stood at attention to thank four of their own Combat Airmen who were awarded Purple Hearts.

Col. Blair E. Hansen, 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing commander, proudly pinned the medal on Tech. Sgt. Mike Ferencz, Staff Sgt. Scott Olson, Senior Airman Mario Salaiz and Airman 1st Class Mauro Velasquez. All four are members of detachment 2632, based here.

Three recipients, Sergeant Ferencz, Airman Salaiz and Airman Velasquez, were injured when an improvised explosive device struck their convoy Nov. 18. The Airmen were convoying north of Beiji City, when out of nowhere they were struck.

"It was a regular mission, just like any other," said Sergeant Ferencz, who was the convoy

commander and truck commander on the mission. "We were about three or four miles out of Beiji and next thing I heard was a large sound, and then a ton of dust all over."

The group's vehicle had been hit. Sergeant Ferencz suffered a concussion, but was able to react immediately following the explosion. He attributed the fact that they weren't more seriously injured to training and the up-armored vehicle.

"Everyone did exactly as we are trained to do," Sergeant Ferencz said. "And the up-armored vehicle was a key factor in saving our lives."

Sergeant Olson, the fourth Combat Airmen honored, was injured Nov. 17 when his vehicle was struck by an IED just north of Balad.

"We were coming back from a four-day mission, and we were so close we could smell Burger King," said Sergeant Olson, who was the truck commander of the mission. "We were just going down the road and out of nowhere, the bomb went off."

When the lead gun truck was



Col. Blair E. Hansen, 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing commander, shakes the hand of Airman 1st Class Mauro Velasquez, 732nd Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron detachment 2632.

struck, Sergeant Olson was hit with shrapnel; he was dazed and passed out numerous times. Looking back on the incident, he praised his crew for their quick reaction and was also thankful for his protective equipment.

"Our crew did everything they were supposed to do," Sergeant Olson said. "They got the convoy out of the area,

stopped the vehicle and the medics patched me up the best they could.

"And my gear saved me," he continued. "If I didn't have my goggles on, I would be blind."

The group is now part of 41 members of the 732nd ELRS that have been awarded Purple Hearts serving on convoy missions the past nine months.

Balad Stadium Dedication

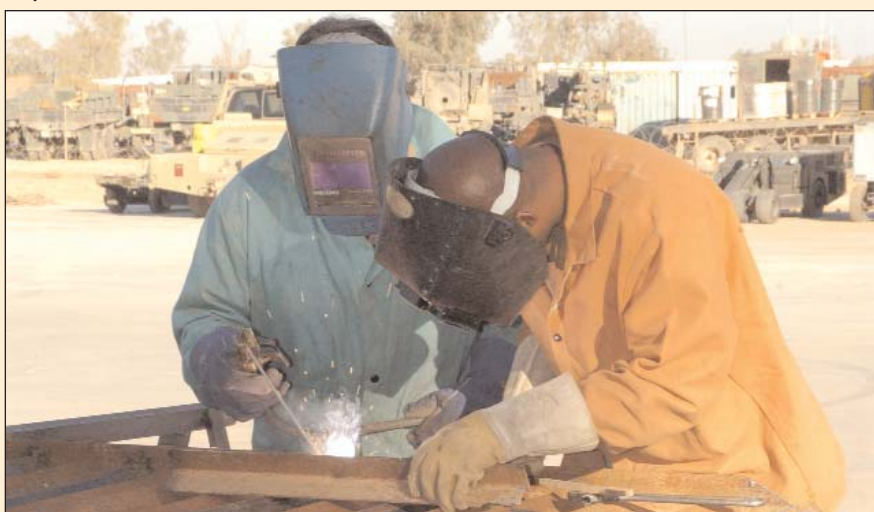
- Members of the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing will dedicate Balad Stadium to Airman 1st Class Antoine J. Holt in a ceremony Wednesday at 11 a.m.

Airman Holt was a member of the 332nd Expeditionary Air Control Squadron when he passed away as a result of injuries sustained when his tent was hit by a mortar in April.

Airman Holt was deployed from the 603rd Air Control Squadron at Aviano Air Base, Italy.

A native of Kennesaw, Ga., Airman Holt was 22 years old and left behind his wife Patricia, and daughter, Carmen.

Spot On



Left, Col. Blair E. Hansen, 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing commander, welds a foreign object debris shaker, as Tech. Sgt. George Morgan, 332nd Expeditionary Maintenance Squadron helps out.

Troops take advantage of Christmas bazaar

Event was great chance to buy holiday presents

Staff Sgt. Ryan Hansen

332nd AEW/PA

Hand carved mahogany jewelry boxes from Kashmir. Silver tea sets from Pakistan. Engraved vases from India.

Those were a few items Airmen, Marines, Sailors and Soldiers could choose from at the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing Christmas Bazaar inside the H-6 Recreation Center.

"The bazaar has been great," said Staff Sgt. Somporn James, 332nd Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron. "There's not a lot to choose from around here, so something like this is perfect for the holidays."

The bazaar started Dec. 2 and concluded Sunday, and organizers were pleased with the turnout.

"The attendance has been great, just fantastic," said Lawrence Simmons, who is the Northern Iraq's services business manager for the Army and Air Force Exchange Service. "We've got a lot of good items that attendees can pick up for Christmas and the holidays."

Attendees walked around the bazaar with a chance to purchase everything from jewelry to hand crafted chess sets.

"This is really nice for people who don't get a chance to go off base and buy things from the locals," said Marine Lance Cpl. Adam Overfelt, 8th Engineer Support Battalion. "There's a lot of good items for the holidays."

The bazaar may have peaked on its final day as event organizers brought in a camel for attendees to have their photo taken with or ride.

"It was scary at first," said Airman 1st Class Consuelo Rowe, 332nd ECES, who was one of the brave soles to ride the camel. "But it was fun. It's something I'll definitely remember from my time in Iraq."

Mr. Simmons said that AAFES has plans to make the bazaar a permanent fixture on Balad in the near future.

"We're planning on opening a permanent bazaar inside the Army (Morale Welfare and Recreation) tent," Mr. Simmons said. "We're also going to open a spa and a trophy shop. We're doing all of these things to make life better for everyone here at Balad."



Air Force/Staff Sgt. Ryan Hansen

Airman 1st Class Everett West, 332nd Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron, barters with a vendor over some sweats.

332nd EOG Change-of-Command



Air Force/Airman 1st Class Joshua Jasper

(Left) Col. Blair E. Hansen, 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing commander, stands at attention to the right of outgoing 332nd Expeditionary Operations Group commander Col. Raymond Rottman, as he prepares to hand the reigns to incoming commander Col. John Ranck during a ceremony Dec. 3 inside Town Hall. Colonel Ranck comes to the 332nd EOG from Andrews Air Force Base, Md., and Colonel Rottman leaves the group enroute to Scott Air Force Base, Ill.



RED HORSE Engineers Make it Happen

Capt. Todd Inouye

1st Expeditionary RED HORSE Group

Many of you have probably seen a few Air Force personnel around Balad in red hats. Some of you may be wondering, "Who are they," and, "What do they do?"

To your curiosity, we are RED HORSE, the Air Force's heavy construction force. RED HORSE is actually an acronym that stands for Rapid Engineering Deployable Heavy Operational Repair Squadron Engineers. Our mission is to accomplish major construction and repair work in forward locations.

RED HORSE units are wartime-structured units that provide a heavier engineering and construction capability than the Prime BEEF troops who are taking care of your base. We have a regional responsibility, are not tied to a specific weapon system or Air Expeditionary Force concept, and are not responsible for base operations, maintenance, or sustainment.

We are mobile, rapidly deployable, and self-sufficient indefinitely, as long as supply lines are open. RED HORSE performs the wartime tasks of major force beddown, heavy damage repair, bare base development, and heavy engineering operations.

The history of RED HORSE dates back to Dec. 1965, when the Air Force realized that it needed a heavy construction capability, similar to the Army's Combat Heavy Battalions and the Navy SeaBees, to build airfields and associated support infrastructure in the jungles of Vietnam.

Those who have deployed before may already be familiar with the HORSE. We've had a permanent presence in the AOR since the Sept. 11th terrorist attacks and have been involved in every major Air Force operation since Vietnam.

Our unit, the 1st Expeditionary RED HORSE Group, was established and still remains at Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar. We employ a "hub and spoke" concept of operations, where teams stretch out to locations throughout the AOR to complete mission critical projects directed by United States Central Command Air Forces. Some of these locations just during Operations Southern Watch, Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom include: Oman, Bahrain, Kuwait, United Arab Emirates, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, as well as Afghanistan and Iraq.

Our team here has an important and challenging mission. We're permanently repairing crater damage on one of the two runways here. This work is directly focused on the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing commander and the Combined Forces Air Component commander's goal of having two operational runways at Balad. This will greatly enhance the capability and capacity of Balad's flying mission. The challenge is accomplishing the repairs on a short timeline, while in a combat environment.

Adding to the hazards and challenges, RED HORSE must work around active rotary-wing operations. Here at Balad, we do not have the luxury of shutting down the airfield for extended



Air Force/Chief Master Sgt. Mark Lewis

A RED HORSE finishing crew use trowels and edgers to smooth out wet cement on Balad's flightline.

periods of time. As a result, we have to coordinate the repairs in order to minimize the impact on helicopter operations, allowing the flying missions of the Army and Joint Special Operations Air Detachment to continue.

There are good reasons why we were chosen for this task. The biggest advantage is the use of military labor. We work 24-hour operations, seven days a week, with an occasional day off. This saves the government on contract labor, profit and overhead costs, which are extremely high here in Iraq. We also save the Air Force a lot of third country national escort manpower, since we do not need escorts to work on the airfield. Also, since the Air Force is the expert and senior authority on airfields, our engineers know how to best meet requirements to support the flying mission.

The repair project costs approximately \$2.4 million and consists of full depth concrete repairs. This amounts to an area of 106,000 square feet, about the size of 2-1/2 football fields, 4,000 cubic yards of concrete, 2.6 million pounds of cement, and 6,000 cubic yards of fill, about 18 million pounds – 450 truck loads.

Our unit here is from the 823d RED HORSE Squadron out of Hurlburt Field, Fla. We are a tight knit crew who all work and train together. Master Sgt. Youngblood, project NCO-in charge, is responsible for training and preparing his team for contingency construction. He has done an outstanding job, as this crew has provided the 332nd AEW with the best repair work this airfield has seen to date.

We're happy to be here and glad to be a part of the Team Balad. The work being done here is exactly what RED HORSE was created to do — forward deploy to austere locations and bare base environments and accomplish high-impact work under constant threat from the enemy.

We are fortunate to have the wing here and are greatly appreciative for all of the support. RED HORSE is very proud to be able to contribute to the important mission of Balad, the U.S. Armed Forces, and the fight for freedom.





Air Force/Chief Master Sgt. Mark Lewis

A steel wheel roller, operated by Staff Sgt. Kenneth Ferguson and Col. James Lyon, rolls down the flightline to the left of a rubber tire roller, which is being operated by Staff Sgt. Gregory May.



Air Force/Chief Master Sgt. Mark Lewis

Senior Airman Obie Oglesby, RED HORSE, operates a concrete saw while making a relief cut in concrete.



Air Force/Senior Airman Brandy Myers

Members of the 1st Expeditionary RED HORSE Group operate a track hoe to remove broken chunks of the old runway here at Balad Air Base, Iraq. After the holes are drilled a hoe ram attachment, a big jackhammer that takes place of the bucket on the track hoe, is used to break up the chunks for removal.



HOLIDAY CELEBRATION



THE REINDEER GROUP



SANTA LEADS THE CAROLS



SANTA AND HIS LITTLE HELPERS



A1C PETER GENTRY LIGHTS THE TREE

Press the Fight!

Col Paul J. Avella

332nd AEW/EOG

Three down...one to go, in a four-month tour. Thanksgiving Day is behind us ... Christmas and New Years are nearly upon us. Not a creature is stirring... Well, not quite.

Collectively, we of AEF 1/2, are making the final turn and are heading into the home stretch of our Iraq deployment. Approaching this juncture, we may tend to look back at our accomplishments... and just maybe, be tempted to relax a little bit too. While our deeds are legion, there can be no rest for the weary.

Winston Churchill once said, "If you have an important point to make, don't try to be subtle or clever. Use the pile driver." Do not relax until you are feet-on-the-ground back at your home base. Until then, continue performing as you have these past months. In short, Press the fight!

Be so consumed with the fight and your piece of the mission that your boss will come up to you at the end of your tour carrying your bag in his hand, kicking you out the door, while telling you, "Your plane is ready to taxi, now get on it, get out of here and go home." March proudly to that waiting aircraft fighting all the way, persist in the battle every step up the tail ramp, maintain your resolve while strapping in... and then above the roar of jet engines and turning propellers you will hear, "Well done, Airman."

What you will have done here will be a part of history. You will have contributed to the legacy born out of the sacrifices of the Tuskegee Airmen. It is a legacy built on hard work, blood, sweat and tears. But for now, our work, our bleeding, our sweat and our tears are not yet complete. Much more remains to be done. Moreover, the dangers and challenges we faced these past months are not about to fade. This is not the time to rest on our laurels. The menace has not thus far subsided. Our mission here is not yet done. Daunting challenges remain and distractions loom just over the horizon.

The Christmas holiday season is imminent along with its wonderfully attendant attractions. At home station, our co-workers,

friends and families will take this opportunity to slow down and observe our holiday customs and traditions. They will also take the time to rest and recharge their batteries. While we will also observe our traditions and customs this holiday season we will not, however, have the luxury to slow down and rest, or to recharge our batteries. For you can bet our enemy will not slow down because it is Christmas. He will not take the time this holiday season to recharge his batteries. Nor is he about to rest because we are near the end of our AEF deployment.

We face a cunningly ruthless and wily enemy determined to force our withdrawal from Iraq. He has to do this in order for him to be able to regain power and resume oppressing the Iraqi people. Your service is integral to thwarting our enemy's stated objective; it is vital for achieving our nation's goal of a free and democratic Iraq. Folks, we are in a zero-sum game. Simply stated, we win, he loses. No need here to mention the alternative.

So much of our national treasure, to include you, has been invested in this country. We intend to not only defeat the enemy we face, but most importantly, to bring the principles of freedom and liberty to the Iraqi people. You have been, continue to be, and will be, an important cog in our struggle to win freedom and liberty for Iraqis.

These past months have presented us with challenges that many would not have thought

probable for Airmen. After all, we Airmen fight wars from air and space. The recruitment poster tells us so. Furthermore, the USAF's bold mantra: Fly, Fight and Win, can only lead us to that conclusion. Yet, during our time in Iraq, we have all gained an appreciation of what being an Airman in service to America really means. Being an Airman truly means being multi-dimensional. We clearly operate from the earth's surface to the far reaches of space, and we do so seamlessly. Though you may have the feeling that our mission here is almost done, now is not the time for us to allow even the smallest seam to open.

Our accomplishments to date are not the result of relaxing and luxuriating in the Iraqi sun. They are the result of plain old-fashioned hard work. Continuing that plain old-fashioned hard work is a must. Mission success and your very survival could depend on it.

The threats to Balad and Logistics Support Area Anaconda are not about to cease just because we are closer to the end of AEF 1/2 than we are to the beginning, or because Christmas is in two weeks. If anything, we could well see increased and intensified attacks. Furthermore, our mettle will not be measured in how we performed the first three months of our AEF. Instead, we will be judged on how we responded each and every day of our AEF tour. Vince Lombardi put it best, "Winners never quit and quitters never win." My association with all of you these past months convinces me that you are all winners.

At the 332 AEW November Award/Promotion ceremony, Col Blair Hansen, 332 AEW/CC, commented, "We are not here to endure. We are not here to soak up rockets and mortars. We are here to do a mission – a noble mission."

So I say to you, be proud of what you have done to date. Heck, brag about it. You have done much good. This said, do not allow yourself one moment of inattention, do not sit back and relax, and do not rest on your laurels. Continue the fight. Nothing subtle here, and nothing all that clever either. But the pile driver is clear. Press the Fight!



2004 College Football Bowl Contest

Jan. 4 • Orange - USC vs. Oklahoma _____

Jan. 3 • Sugar - Auburn vs. Virginia Tech _____

Jan. 1 • Fiesta - Utah vs. Pittsburgh _____

Jan. 1 • Rose - Texas vs. Michigan _____

Jan. 1 • Capital One - Iowa vs. LSU _____

Jan. 1 • Outback - Wisconsin vs. Georgia _____

Jan. 1 • Gator - Florida St. vs. W. Virginia _____

Jan. 1 • Cotton - Texas A&M vs. Tennessee _____

Dec. 31 • Peach - Miami vs. Florida _____

Dec. 31 • Sun - Purdue vs. Arizona St. _____

Dec. 31 • Liberty - Boise St. vs. Louisville _____

Dec. 31 • Music City - Minnesota vs. Alabama _____

Dec. 31 • Holiday - California vs. Texas Tech _____

Dec. 30 • Houston - Colorado vs. UTEP _____

Dec. 30 • Tire - N. Carolina vs. Boston College _____

Dec. 30 • Emerald - New Mexico vs. Navy _____

Dec. 29 • Alamo - Ohio St. vs. Oklahoma St. _____

Dec. 29 • Silicon Valley - Troy vs. N. Illinois _____

Dec. 28 • Insight - Notre Dame vs. Oregon St. _____

Dec. 28 • Independence - Miami (Oh.) vs. Iowa St. _____

Dec. 27 • Motor City - Toledo vs. Connecticut _____

Dec. 27 • MPC Computers - Fresno St. vs. Virginia _____

Dec. 24 • Hawaii - Hawaii vs. UAB _____

Dec. 23 • Las Vegas - Wyoming vs. UCLA _____

Dec. 23 • Fort Worth - Cincinnati vs. Marshall _____

Dec. 22 • GMAC - Memphis vs. Bowling Green _____

Dec. 21 • Champs Sports - Ga. Tech vs. Syracuse _____

Dec. 14 • New Orleans - N. Texas vs. S. Mississippi _____

Tie-Breaker • Total Points in the Orange Bowl _____

To enter the contest, circle the winner from each game and designate a number next to the pick based on your confidence. For example, if you are most confident USC will defeat Oklahoma, put 28 next to that game. Continue with your picks, 27, 26, 25, etc., until you have them all down to 1, which is your least confident pick.

The contest winner will be the person who has the most points at the end of all 28 bowl games. The tie-breaker will be used if two or more people are tied.

First place will receive a \$15 gift certificate from the Army and Air Force Exchange Services. Second place will receive \$10 and third will receive \$5.

Please turn in your picks, one entry only, to Staff Sgt. Ryan Hansen inside the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing headquarters building, by 8 p.m. Dec. 14, to qualify for the contest. For more information, please call Sergeant Hansen at 443-6005, or e-mail him at ryan.hansen@blab.centaf.af.mil.

For me, bowl season is the best holiday of year

Staff Sgt. Ryan Hansen
332nd AEW/PA

When December rolls around, most people think of Christmas and family. I think of the college bowl season.

Coming from Nebraska, bowl season is as much a part of life as death and taxes. Our Cornhuskers regularly go bowling this time of the year and it is something we have come to expect. I personally have followed them to six of their last 10 bowl games, and I've enjoyed every one of them. My personal favorite was the 1995 Orange Bowl. After so many close calls, Huskers head coach Tom Osborne finally won his first national championship. It is something I'll never forget.

However, for the first time in my life, the Huskers will be home for the holidays. It has been hard to come to terms with this fact, but after 35 straight years of bowling, I guess I can handle one off-season. Besides, I don't have a choice.

This year's bowl season has again brought us controversy. Who deserves to be in the Bowl Championship Series title game, the Orange Bowl? Should the Auburn Tigers, coming out of arguably the toughest conference in the land, be there? Or did the pollsters get it right with USC-Oklahoma?

Some folks complain about this problem year after year and scream, "we need a playoff." I do not agree. I love college football because it is unique, unlike any other sport in the world. Bowl games are traditional, and the mass chaos and controversy surrounding the bowl season is exciting. The

world will continue on if we crown two champions like we did last year.

Besides, I say we already have a playoff in college football. What if the Green Bay Packers lose to the Detroit Lions in week eight of the NFL season? They still have a shot to win it all regardless. Tell a Texas Longhorn fan that the Red River Shootout against the Oklahoma Sooners doesn't matter. I'm sure they'll tell you where to go. That game has again cost the Horns a spot in the Big 12 championship game the last two years.

Others claim there are too many bowls. I couldn't disagree more. Put me in front of a television for the New Orleans Bowl where the North Texas Mean Green battle the Southern Mississippi Golden Eagles and I will not move. Well, I may go pick up a beverage, but that will be it. Besides, I'm sure the students, alumni and friends of those programs enjoyed their trip to New Orleans.

Anyway, here we are in Iraq for the 2004 bowl season. To try and make it as painless as possible, I have put together a bowl contest for everyone to enjoy.

The contest is easy. Pick the winner of each bowl game and put down how confident you are by ranking them one through 28. If you pick the winner correctly, you get the points you put down on the game.

The winner will have the most points at the end of the contest. If we have more than one tie, we'll use the tie-breaker, which is total points between USC and Oklahoma.

Fill it out and drop it off to me by 8 p.m. Dec. 14.

Go Big Red!

Defense briefs

668 Airmen face involuntary retraining

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AFPN) – Although many Airmen have already volunteered to change career fields or separate under the initial phase of the Air Force's fiscal 2005 non-commissioned officer retraining program, 668 other active-duty Airmen face involuntary retraining.

In Phase I of the program, Air Force officials notified more than 3,000 Airmen selected as "vulnerable" to retrain and asked them to submit their choices of shortage career fields they would most like to retrain into.

As part of Phase II, 668 active-duty Airmen have been targeted for involuntary retraining into a specialty chosen for them by Air Force Personnel Center enlisted retraining officials here.

Phase II began Dec. 2 and will run through Feb. 28.

"This phase of the retraining program is necessary to help meet the needs of the Air Force by putting Airmen where they are needed most," said Tech. Sgt. Catina Johnson-Roscoe, NCO in charge of Air Force enlisted retraining.

"The retraining program is designed to help balance the enlisted force by moving NCOs in specialties with surpluses to those with shortages," said Chief Master Sgt. Terrence Reed, chief of AFPC's skills management branch.

Vulnerability are posted on the Web and will be updated weekly online at <https://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/enlskills/Retraining/retraining.htm>.

Airmen interested in more details about the program can contact their local military personnel flight.

Air Force working to fix pay issues

President Bush urged every American "to find some way to thank our military and help out the military family down the street."

Speaking to Marines and their families during a visit Tuesday to Camp Pendleton, Calif., the president called the holiday season of giving a time for the country to "stand with the men and women who stand up for America - our military."

Bush urged people to go to the Defense Department's "America Supports You" Web site to learn about private efforts being undertaken nationwide to show support for the troops.

"In the last four years, I have seen - the world has seen - the courage, the skill and the decency of the United States military. You are a great force for good in our world," Bush told the group of Marines and families of deployed Marines. "The American people know it, and they are behind you."

Bush named examples of Americans' support for the troops, from 15-year-old Shauna Fleming from California who collected 1 million letters thanking military personnel, to a husband-wife team who regularly travel to Andrews Air Force Base, Md., to greet wounded troops returning from Iraq and Afghanistan.

The president said these are a few examples of the tremendous outpouring for America's troops, and he encourages all Americans to express their support.

"Across our country, Americans are coming together to surround our deployed forces and wounded warriors with love and support," the president said. "And we should be doing more."

Meet your neighbor



Senior Airman Katherine Lee

Home station: Andrews Air Force Base, Md.

Unit: 332nd AEW/CP

Family: Husband, Tony; daughter, Kaylin

Hobbies: Drawing, painting and working out.

How do you contribute to the mission? At the command post we track inbound and outbound aircraft and coordinate their uploads and downloads with other base agencies. We keep the base informed of current statuses as the voice of Panther as well as keep commanders informed as information arrives day-to-day. What is your favorite aspect of this deployment? We are making a difference by helping a country begin a new era of freedom and knowing that all of our jobs are important.

Besides your family, what do you miss back home? I mainly miss my routines. I had no idea how much I would miss long hot showers, driving and walking on solid ground.

Have a Safe and Happy Holidays from the Fire Department



Do Not Overload Your Plugs

Air Force Religious Schedule

Protestant

Sundays:

8 a.m. • Religious Education – H-6 Chapel
9 a.m. • Contemporary Worship – H-6 Chapel
10:30 a.m. • Traditional – Hospital
2 p.m. • Bible Study – Hospital
3 p.m. • Devotional – CSAR Theatre
5:30 p.m. • Inspirational Worship – T-Town Chapel

Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays:

8:45 a.m. • Purpose Driven Life Study – CASF

Daily:

8:30 p.m. • Band of Brothers – H-6 Chapel
9 p.m. • Prayer – H-6 Chapel

Islamic

Fridays:

1:30 p.m. • Prayer – Provider Chapel

Church of Christ

Sundays:

11 a.m. • Worship – 1/142nd Chapel Tent

Lutheran

Sundays:

8:30 a.m. • Cherokee Chapel
2 p.m. • 185th Task Force Tent

Roman Catholic

Sundays:

10:30 a.m. • Mass – H-6 Chapel

Wednesdays:

9:30 a.m. • Mass – CASF

Fridays:

6 p.m. • Reconciliation – Hospital
6:30 p.m. • Mass – Hospital

Latter Day Saints

Sundays:

7 p.m. • Sacraments – H-6 Chapel
8 p.m. • Sunday School – H-6 Chapel

Thursdays:

7 p.m. • Study Group – H-6 Chapel

Jewish

Fridays:

6:30 p.m. • Prayer – Eden Chapel

Orthodox

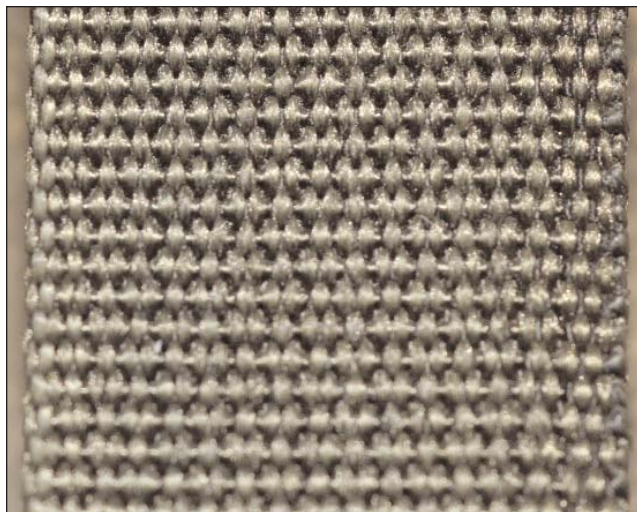
Sundays:

11 a.m. • Divine Liturgy – 185th Task Force Tent

Saturdays:

7 p.m. • Vespers – 185th Task Force Tent

Know what this is?



Air Force/Tech. Sgt. Marc Barnes

If you can identify the object, send us an e-mail at redtailflyer@blab.centaf.af.mil. The first person with the correct answer wins a \$5 gift certificate courtesy of the Army and Air Force Exchange Service. Last week's photo of the eight of diamonds went unidentified.



Sustainer Movie Schedule

Schedule is subject to change



Today	6 p.m. - Alexander	Wednesday
3 p.m. - Raise Your Voice	9 p.m. - White Chicks	3 p.m. - Ocean's Twelve
6 p.m. - Ladder 49		6 p.m. - Lemony Snickets
9 p.m. - Kranks	Monday	9 p.m. - Ocean's Twelve
	3 p.m. - Kranks	
Saturday	6 p.m. - Raise Your Voice	Thursday
3 p.m. - Mr. 3000	9 p.m. - Taxi	3 p.m. - Taxi
6 p.m. - The Forgotten		6 p.m. - Ocean's Twelve
9 p.m. - Resident Evil	Tuesday	9 p.m. - Lemony Snickets
	3 p.m. - Shark Tale	
Sunday	6 p.m. - Kranks	
3 p.m. - King Arthur	9 p.m. - Alexander	



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by the public affairs staff of the 332nd AEW at Balad Air Base, Iraq. The public affairs office can be contacted at 458-1149, or by e-mail at: redtailflyer@blab.centaf.af.mil or 332aew.pa@blab.centaf.af.mil.

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